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E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/30/2016

TAGS: PGOV PHUM LH BU

SUBJECT: LITHUANIA: FINNISH PRESIDENCY OK TO INVITE
BURMESE FM TO ASEM

REF: SECSTATE 124139

Classified By: Pol/econ officer Traver Gudie for reasons 1.4 b,d

(C) Lithuania will not engage the EU presidency to withdraw or downgrade the invitation to the Burmese Foreign Minister to attend the September 10-11 Asia Europe meeting in Helsinki. We delivered reftel points urging Lithuania to do so to Head of the MFA's Common Foreign Policy Department Tomas Gulbinas on July 31. Gulbinas did not reply immediately but responded several hours later to say that the Finnish Presidency had acted in line with the renewed Common Position on Burma. He said that because no member state raised objections to the Common Position, the Finnish Presidency's invitation to the Burmese Minister would "not be included into the EU agenda at this particular moment."

KELLY